

MHawaii MARINE

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THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

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HMH-362, 1/12 return from Iraq

**Story and Photo by
Cpl. Chadwick deBree**
Combat Correspondent

Approximately 100 Marines and Sailors assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, returned here Wednesday.

The Marines and Sailors deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 1/12 Marines were assigned to Task Force Military Police, conducting security operations, while the Ugly Angels of HMH-

362 provided air support under 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"We dropped troops off at the camps that they needed to be at and dropped supplies for them," said Staff Sgt. Jaime Cortez, maintenance administrative chief, HMH-362. "My main highlight of this deployment was having successful missions and us returning home safely, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the main body returning home safely."

See RETURN, A-6



Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 get off the plane after landing at Hangar 105 here Wednesday.



Children hold up signs to welcome home their fathers Sept. 27, at Hangar 105 here. Friends and family members gathered at the hangar to welcome Marines and Sailors assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who returned after a seven-month deployment in support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1/3 returns after seven-month Iraq deployment

**Story and Photos by
Cpl. Chadwick deBree**
Combat Correspondent

Children lined up against a small mesh fence, holding signs with the pictures and names of fathers in an airplane preparing to land. As the wheels touched the ground, the crowd began to cheer.

Approximately 120 Lava Dogs with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, along with soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division from Schofield Barracks, returned home Sept. 27 at Hangar 105 here.

The Marines and Sailors with 1/3 returned after completing a seven-moth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in Iraq, the Marines conducted patrols and participated in counterinsurgency operations in al Anbar province as part of Regimental Combat Team 2.

"We did force protection for the places that need it," said Sgt. Gilbert Reyna, combat engineer, 1/3, and a 27-year-old Houston native. "It was a good experience for my whole platoon since they were all new."

As Reyna made his way through the crowd after getting off the plane, he was greeted by his wife and two kids whom he hasn't seen in seven months.

"I really missed my kids and wife," Reyna said. "I tried to call and

See 1/3, A-6



Lance Cpl. Stephen Newman, training noncommissioned officer, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, holds his child for the first time after returning back to Hawaii, Sept. 27, at Hangar 105 here. The Lava Dogs returned after participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fallen Marine remembered



Corporal Eamon Cullen Turner was born April 4, 1984 and died Sept. 17. Turner will be missed by friends and family, but he will never be forgotten or erased from their hearts.

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion
Combat Correspondent

Corporal Eamon Cullen Turner lives in the hearts of fellow Marines.

The Base Chapel's atmosphere was somber Sept. 25 as Marines here honored a fallen Marine who died Sept. 17.

Turner, 23, range instructor, Pu'uolo Rifle Range, died in his barracks room. The cause of death is under investigation.

Hundreds of Marines, including Col. Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and Lt. Col. William Perez, Headquarters Battalion commanding officer, attended the memorial service.

One Marine recounted how Turner gave his serviceable Marine Corps combat utility uniforms to Marines who were deploying, keeping the stained ones

"He was the most selfless person I've ever met," said Sgt. Alexander Yadloczy, chief instructor, Pu'uolo Rifle Range. "He would literally give you the shirt off his back if you needed it."

Turner did his best to learn as much as he could about the Corps, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Herman, officer-in-charge, Pu'uolo Rifle Range.

See HONOR, A-6

Hugs abound



Pic. Ronald W. Stauffer

Lieutenant Cmdr. Alan Abaer, Detachment 4, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, is attacked with hugs by his kids here after returning from deployment Sept. 27. The "EasyRiders" embarked on the USS Chosin in April in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

— News Briefs —

Air Show to Impact Westfield Traffic,
Boating in Kaneohe Bay

During the Blues on the Bay air show, Oct. 12-14, the area northwest of the runway is off limits. This includes the western portion of North Beach below officer housing. The only personnel allowed in the area will be air show workers or security, and military police will sweep the area.

Also, access lanes in Kaneohe Bay will be limited, and the Coast Guard will patrol the area. The lanes will be clearly marked.

These restrictions are mandatory to comply with Federal Aviation Administration rules, and a violation could shut down the air show.

Expect delays crossing the runway Oct. 11 from 8 to 11 a.m., an no crossing from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The area closes again Oct. 12-14 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

13th Annual Joint Spouses' Conference

The 13th Annual Joint Spouses' Conference will be at the Hickam Officers' Club October 19 and 20.

The conference is a forum for spouses of active duty, reserve and retired military members of all services to uplift, motivate, educate and strengthen us in our challenging roles as spouses, parents, professionals and community leaders through a variety of workshops and keynote speakers.

Registration is Sept. 8 through Oct. 6. Forms are available at commissaries, fitness centers, family support centers, thrift shops, chapels or online at <http://www.JSCHAWAII.com>.

Native American Volunteers Needed

The National Indian Education Association is conducting its 38th Annual National Convention in Honolulu Oct. 25 to 28 at 6 p.m. at the Hawaii Convention Center.

The NIEA has requested a military Joint service color guard consisting of Native-American military members for a patriotic presentation at the opening ceremony of the convention's pow wow.

For more information, contact Dennis Fujii at 477-6282.

Give Blood, Support Life

The Officers' Spouses club is hosting a blood drive to support Tripler Army Medical Center Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the chapel here.

For more information, call Tricia Hannigan at 284-5338.

Marines Needed for Recruiter Assistance

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? Fourth Marine Corps District is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact your recruiter or log onto <http://www.4mcd.usmc.mil/PTAD.asp> for a map of the Fourth District area and the point of contact for your hometown.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

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Sergeant Major says...

New traffic regulations
mean safer community

I would like to share my thoughts and concerns regarding last week's changes to Base Order P5500.15B.

Marines are taught in recruit training what is expected of them as Marines. They're instructed, then receive demonstrations and are expected to perform to standard. If they're successful in recruit training they earn the right and privilege to be a Marine.

We expect a lot of Marines, especially today. Both the Navy and Marine Corps share the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. It is expected that these core values become part of Marines' character, decision making processes and how they conduct themselves both on and off duty.

Every Marine is a leader and it's every Marine's responsibility to develop leaders. The mentorship program and professional military schools ensure our Marines gain the knowledge and expertise they need to be successful leaders. Even the most junior Marine can exercise leadership when the opportunity requires.

For example, if there is an unsafe situation on the rifle range, the first one who recognize the safety issue is expected to call cease fire, regardless of rank or experience level. That safety violation is corrected immediately and aggressively.

Furthermore it's expected that the safety violator will be held accountable for their actions. The individual expects to be held accountable and the rest of those on that range expect that the individual will be held accountable.

Base regulations are meant to provide a safe environment for the community aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. While here, everyone, whether military, family member or civilian, becomes part of the base community, and all must follow these regulations. Everyone must be responsible and understand what is expected of them as a member of the community.

It's the responsibility of the leaders here to ensure everyone is aware of base regulation changes. Leaders are expected to get the word and assist with enforcing regulations. It's also expected that leaders hold violators accountable.

The new regulations will not be a huge concern for the base community. The primary change to the regulations regarding cell phone use simply aligns MCBH with other military installations on the island.

I'm confident with good leadership and adherence to our core values the community will follow and enforce the regulations.

Also, I've include some information from the current base regulations that I want to emphasize since it's starting to get dark earlier this time of year. (BO P5500.1B with changes can be found at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/> under Base Orders).

Parking and Unattended Vehicles

Park vehicles to permit free access to, and unobstructed exit of other parked vehicles. When not in a parking lot, park only in the direction of travel.

Pedestrians, Joggers, and Runners

Military Police Department will enforce portions of reference (i) that apply to pedestrians. This instruction is applicable to all personnel, dependents, civilian employees and/or guests of such, aboard MCBH. Jogging is defined as recreational physical conditioning runs involving individuals or small groups of people where there are no formations, chanting or cadence counting. All pedestrians, walkers, stroller pushers, joggers, runners and individuals exercising will:

- a. Cross roads only at intersections or crosswalks whenever possible.
- b. Walk/run on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic in the absence of sidewalks.
- c. Comply with orders or directions of military police/traffic control persons.
- d. Not enter any crosswalk or roadway when vehicle traffic

- is so close it constitutes an immediate hazard to pedestrians or vehicles.
- e. Not stand on the roadway to solicit a ride in any vehicle, including at authorized pickup stations.
 - f. Wear reflection belts or vests when running during hours of darkness (between evening and morning colors).
 - g. Not wear portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices while jogging, walking, skating, skateboarding or bicycling on roads and streets here. The use of these devices masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, human speech and the ability to determine the direction from which the sound is coming. This prohibition doesn't apply to hearing aids nor does it negate the requirement for wearing hearing protective equipment where conditions dictate their use or the use of communications type equipment for official Marine Corps business.

Required Equipment

All bicycles operated at night must be equipped with a white light visible 500 feet to the front. Bicycles must also be equipped with:

- a. A crystal (white) reflector of at least three square inches, or six square inches of white reflective material facing forward and unobstructed when viewed from the front.



- b. An amber reflector with a minimum of three square inches or 12 square inches of amber reflective material on each side facing outward.
- c. Amber reflectors on both front and rear surfaces of all pedals.
- d. A red reflector with a minimum of three square inches facing rearward and unobstructed when viewed from the rear.
- e. For safety, bicyclists riding during darkness will wear light colored or reflective clothing to increase visibility.
- f. Bicycle Helmets: All bicycle riders will wear properly fastened bicycle helmets while riding aboard MCBH. If walking a bicycle for long distances in military uniform, the rider should take off the helmet and put on the appropriate uniform cover. Any rider not wearing a helmet while riding will be issued a MOR.

**Semper Fi,
Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Fierle**

MCBH
Traffic
Campaign



Effective Oct. 1, The Military Police Department traffic regulations have changed. There are many changes, but drivers should especially note the use of cell phones while driving is no longer authorized, even with a hands free unit. Here are more of the changes:

- ❖ **Cell phone/Seatbelt violations:** Drivers using a cell or a with no seatbelt receive the following: First offense – 30 day suspension; second offense – 90 day suspension; third offense – 6 month suspension; Military Police will remove base decals at the time of citation and issue a temporary suspension. Vehicles must be immediately removed from MCBH. Authorized family members may request a “no male/no female” decal for their vehicle if a driver is suspended or revoked.
- ❖ **Third Party Traffic Complaints:** Individuals who witnesses a traffic violation and can identify the violator can initiate administrative action. The person reporting the incident is required to attend traffic court to testify. The online report is located at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/>
- ❖ **The Point System:** Violations have a point value. Drivers with 12 points or more within 12 months will have their driving privileges here suspended at least a year, depending on violation.
- ❖ **DUI/DWI:** Driving under the influence or refusal to submit, or failure to complete chemical test (Implied Consent) – 12 points, mandatory court, one-year suspension.
- ❖ **Speeding:** 1 to 9 miles per hour over the speed limit – 3 points; 10-14 miles per hour over the limit – 4 points; 15 miles per hour and higher – minimum 30 day suspension.
- ❖ **Operating Vehicle on Suspended/Revoked license:** 24 points, mandatory court, and two-year base suspension.
- ❖ **Operating Vehicle Without Valid License:** Failure to show proof within 5 working days – 4 points and mandatory court; Show proof within 5 working days – 2 points.
- ❖ **No Insurance:** Expired/lapsed – Mandatory court; No valid no-fault insurance – 6 points, mandatory court, and temporary base suspension; Not in vehicle – 2 points.
- ❖ **Expired Registration/Safety:** Failure to show proof within 5 working days – 4 points mandatory court. Show proof within 5 working days – 2 points
- ❖ **Illegal Parking:** Parking is only authorized in marked stalls, and NOT authorized on seeded (grass) areas. Three parking tickets in a six-month period will earn a 30 day suspension.
- ❖ **Abandoned Vehicles:** Vehicle owners are highly encouraged to sell, donate, or properly dispose of their vehicle. Registered owners who abandon vehicles receive a mandatory six-month suspension on all Marine Corps Bases if found guilty. Vehicle owners must deregister their vehicle with MPD immediately upon ownership transfer and/or PCS. If selling a vehicle, owners are further cautioned to retain a copy of the bill of sale for a minimum of 2 years.



Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 11 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 76

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 11 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 75. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 75

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 76



A Marine with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, lays down suppressive-fire with an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon during a platoon assault at Pohakulua Training Area.



Private First Class Thomas Young, antitank assaultman, 2/3, sights in with an M240 G machine gun during a platoon assault course as part of a combined arms training package at Pohakulua Training Area. The Marines of Echo Company assaulted the Platoon Range practicing the basics of fire and maneuver.

Echo Marines practice platoon-sized attacks

Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULUA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Marines here conducted platoon-sized assaults Sept. 21 as part of their overall training package, to help prepare them for the upcoming Mojave Viper exercise and eventual deployment to Iraq. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, cover and suppressive-fire, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, engaged and pushed through targets and an enemy-held hill, ending at a bunker.

Senior Marines guided the assault, correcting the infantrymen on errors such as improper use of terrain. “Its terrain warfare; we cover squads as they advance and move,

“*Mojave Viper will focus more on Iraq situations, while this training is good because it helps mentally, knowing where your Marines are, how they work, and physically. It’s not easy running with a full load and your 240 Golf.*”

~ Lance Cpl. Travis Ledbetter
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

”

and they do the same for us,” said Lance Cpl. Travis Ledbetter, a machine gunner with Echo Co., 2/3. “You’re coming at them with overwhelming firepower, and

working as a team pretty much makes sure that they’re going to lose the ground.” During the assault, they employed M240G machine guns

and other heavy weapons, as well as other weapons inherent to Marine Corps infantry. Echo Marines used the overwhelming firepower to its full potential, as they rapidly maneuvered and set up positions to successfully engage the enemy. “The training might not be how we’ll operate in Iraq, but it’s the basics of infantry training,” Ledbetter said. “Mojave Viper will focus more on Iraq situations, while this training is good because it helps mentally, knowing where your Marines are, how they work, and physically. It’s not easy running with a full load and your 240 Golf.” Marines did a dry run first, to get a feel for the area and potential positions. After that, they loaded their weapons and prepared for a live “fire and maneuver” range.

“This is phenomenal training,” said 1st Sgt. Brian Fogarty, Echo Co. first sergeant. “Marines are constantly training and are moving from one range to another. It builds confidence and teaches Marines how to communicate. On Oahu there’s a lot of delays in setting up; here, you have a training area that takes a lot of those problems out and focuses on the training itself.” The first sergeant seemed pleased with his Marines’ performance during the training. “The Marines are some of the best we’ve had,” Fogarty said. “They learn fast, they’re motivated and they want to train.” With the basics enforced here, Marines should be fully prepared for the challenges they’ll soon face in California at Mojave Viper, where they’ll train for situations they might face in Iraq.



Marines march up a hill during the first wave of targets during a platoon-sized attack at PTA. The combined arms training is preparation for the more extensive Mojave Viper exercise at the Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center in California, where they’ll hone their infantry skills and practice scenario-specific training before deploying to Iraq.

1/12 enforces humane treatment of detainees

**Story and Photo by
Cpl. Ryan M. Blaich**
2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

RAMADI, Iraq — The Abu Ghraib prison scandal is something the military has worked hard to recover from since photographs of Iraqi detainees appeared in papers across the world in 2004.

Marines from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Task Force Military Police, have experienced the challenges, pressures and surprises of dealing with detainees on a daily basis. They work to balance fundamental human rights with cultural sensitivity, and basic common sense with professionalism. The Marines may not be making friends here, but they’re not creating enemies.

Third platoon, Battery B, 1/12, TFMP, operates the detention facility here. They come from a variety of occupational specialties, ranging from combat lithographer to wireman to artillery, and come from units as far away as Okinawa, Japan.

Gunnery Sgt. Cory Mitchell, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, is one of three actual correctional specialists at the facility. He believes that while it might be ideal for corrections Marines to run the facility, it just isn’t possible.

Despite the unique position these Marines are in, they don’t let their inexperience get in the way of their mission.

“In theory, it would be nice ... however, we don’t have enough corrections Marines to do it,” he said. “But, it’s a job this unit has easily done.”

There are three detention facilities in al Anbar province, one at each of the major forward operating bases (Fallujah, al Asad and Ramadi). The facility here houses less than 300 detainees, making it substantially smaller than the other two.

Since the platoon arrived in March, the number of detainees has not reached more than a quarter of its capacity, due, in part, to the curb of violence in the Anbar region.

Although the lull of violence is a prominent sign of progress for Iraqi and Coalition Forces, it has created a struggle to remain focused on a facility full of empty space. At one time earlier this summer, the facility held a mere five men.

“The biggest challenge has probably been the way Ramadi has changed,” Mitchell said. “We never had the high numbers we were expecting to have. But this is still Iraq, so we’re doing things to keep the Marines alert and focused.”



Lance Cpl. Kevin Kimmerling stands duty on the roof of Ramadi’s Regional Detention Facility.

In typical Marine spirit, they’ve developed a rigorous training schedule to stay busy. During downtime most Marines work out or participate in the Marine Corps Martial Art Program, increasing their belt level if possible. They have a firing range nearby, where they hone their marksmanship skills when time allows.

Mitchell said time off keeps Marines fresh and focused when it comes time to work, which is important in a job under public scrutiny.

The officer in charge, Capt. Benjamin Preston, compares working here to a football team’s offensive line. Like the men who block and guard star players on the team, their job is essential, but not glamorous.

“It’s an important mission, but the only time anybody ever notices, for the most part, is when we screw up,” the 27-year-old Kennewick, Wash., native said. We’ve really tried to rally around that with the Marines.”

The platoon started to work up for this deployment last October,

training at the Pohakuloa Training Center on the Big Island of Hawaii. They later traveled to Louisiana for additional training at the Joint Readiness Training Center, known as Cajun Viper.

During their pre-deployment training, Marines learned to conduct basic operations of day-to-day activities, but mainly focused on the humane treatment of detainees. Mitchell said it was crucial Marines saw the detained men through impartial eyes, not judging them on the actions they were accused of committing, and treating them equally. A task that might be easier said than done.

“We treat them really good, probably a lot better than you think we’d treat them,” said Lance Cpl. Dylan Chambers, formerly a field wireman, from Dallas. “It took me a while and then I realized what if I were a [detainee], I’d want to be treated humanely. I’d want to be able to shower and eat decent food and use the restroom if I had to. And you have to realize that not all of them are bad dudes. So, I just try to treat

them all equally.”

The facility is meant to hold detainees for less than 15 days. During this time, military lawyers review their cases while investigators gather physical evidence and detainees go through interrogation.

While here, the detained men cannot communicate openly amongst themselves for fear of rioting or compromising their case. The possessions they arrived with are stored in the evidence room. They are only allowed a mat, blankets, a prayer rug, shoes and an orange jumpsuit inside their cell. Each holding cell is air conditioned and clean. The living environment inside the detention center, in some ways, is better than conditions in town.

“We try to make sure things for [the detainees] are comfortable,” said Sgt. Jason Hernandez, a Waukesha, Wis., native. “It is a prison, but we don’t want to make it an uncomfortable environment for them and then they go back out in town and think all Americans are bad. At least we’re sending them out into society saying, ‘They gave me a

comfortable place to sleep, a blanket if I got cold, water, food, and let me shower.’ We are trying to make these guys realize we’re not the bad guys.”

In some instances, Hernandez said detainees show appreciation when they leave the facility, even if they’re not allowed a cigarette.

“A lot of them come in expecting us to treat them inhumanely,” Hernandez said. “We’ve had some come through here and when they leave they thank us. We had one guy actually thank us because we helped him quit smoking.”

The platoon soon returns to Hawaii. Marines much like these from 1/12 will soon take over. They will be new to the job, but well prepared.

Ultimately, the Marines here made a difference. They created an environment of trust, simply by treating the Iraqis like human beings.

“The Iraqi people are seeing how America is and how we act toward them and the good things we’re doing for Ramadi,” Mitchell concluded.

'America's Battalion' continues counterinsurgency ops

Regimental Combat Team 6 Public Affairs

Regimental Combat Team 6

KARMAH, Iraq — Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, are quickly revealing themselves to be in tune with the requirements of counterinsurgency warfare.

Karmah and its surrounding countryside is one of the last bastions of insurgent activity in RCT-6’s area of operations. Only a matter of weeks since arriving in Iraq, Marines with “America’s Battalion” have gradually turned reality against perception, said Lance Cpl. Travis I. Stoner, a grenadier with third platoon. He said striking a balance between aggressive action and respectful treatment of the Iraqis is crucial to winning their trust.

“Going out on patrols you have to have the mindset that you’re going to have contact, but you have to treat people with respect,” said Stoner, a San Antonio native.

The Marines aren’t simply conducting patrols and manning checkpoints in the city, however. They’re also training Iraqis to stand watch at the checkpoints, effectively training their replacements, said Sgt. Jeffrey K. Kelley, a 26-year-old Pueblo, Colo., native.

“All we do is go out there with some [barriers] and fill them full of dirt,” said Kelley, a third platoon squad leader. “They come out of their houses with their [rifles] saying, ‘I don’t want to have insurgents on my street,’ and they’re protecting it on their own. It’s been a huge success since ... we came out here.”

Second Lt. William O. Over, a 25-year-old platoon commander with Company L, 3/3, said extra sets of eyes and ears on the street, eyes and ears belonging to local residents, is a huge boon to the Marines. The intricate tribal network in the area is a low-hanging fruit for gathering intelligence about insurgents in the area.

“The social network around here can get information and intelligence much faster than we do,” said Over, a Council Bluffs, Iowa, native. “Everybody knows everything. It’s like a small town.”

“They’ll tell us, ‘This car has been abandoned for two or three weeks, and we know it’s a bad guy’s car,’” Kelley said. “We are gathering intelligence from the Iraqis about what is out there. They tell us about everything that is going on in the area, so it is pretty easy for us to do our job.”

Over said putting Iraqis into service to protect their own homes is the central

focus of the Marines’ mission.

“Right now the big mission is empowering the locals here to provide security for themselves,” he said. “Then it’s our job to go back and provide security patrols as well as ensure they are manning those checkpoints and keeping up their end of the bargain.”

The key, Over said, is conducting all recruiting through the sheiks. Sheiks are powerful tribal or community leaders with heavy influence over those living under their watch. By contacting these opinion leaders and communicating as openly as possible with them, Marines are keeping in step with thousands of years of tribal tradition.

“Depending on how the sheik may want to work it, they may go to each house and say, ‘Hey, we need a male from each house to man a checkpoint,’” Over explained. “We’re not really concerned how they provide the men. We’re concerned that they do provide the men to man the checkpoints, and they have done a really good job of doing that.”

Over said the ability of his Marines to adapt to the complex counterinsurgency fight is helping put Karmah residents back on the road to normalcy.

“My Marines are doing excellent out here. This area



Pfc. Brian Jones

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol a small village near Karmah, Iraq, Sept. 22.

out here has been a huge success story. Prior to us coming ... there was no military presence over here at all,” Over said. “This area was seen as the last stronghold for al Qaeda. So we pushed across and have been talking to locals, the majority of (insurgents) are all pushed out of the area. I’m sure there are a few stragglers left behind, and that is why we are still out here, to push those last few out and secure the area so the children can go back to school, all the

farmers can go back to conducting their farming, and business can go on as normal.”

Kelley said that in particular, he has been pleased to see his less experienced Marines, for many of whom this is their first deployment, stepping readily into the role of instructor and mentor to the fledgling community watch.

“We’re moving as a unit and integrating the Iraqis into our patrols and clearing the whole village. It worked

really well. Our junior Marines are teaching the Iraqis, which is a huge step for what junior Marines are used to doing,” he said.

Lima Co. Marines maintain continuous communication with the Iraqi villagers, constantly meeting with the sheiks to ensure the community watch has everything it needs to remain vigilant in the face of the enemy.

“[We] put them in the best position possible for them to succeed in what they are doing,” Over said.

Purple Heart veteran discusses free services

**Story and Photos by
Christine Cabalo**

Photojournalist

Helping veterans earn a living after their service is a mission Richard Esau, executive director, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, is happy to take.

A retired colonel with two Purple Heart medals, Esau visited here Sept. 21 for a heart-to-heart talk with Wounded Warriors Company and Col. Mark A. Dungan, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, about veteran's services.

Veterans can apply for online job training and counseling on collecting benefits with the foundation's help. Its latest program, Combat Call Center, is one of several ways the wounded can get job training.

Esau also met with Capt. Jerome Greco, officer-in-charge, Wounded Warrior Co., who was eager to learn how the foundation's programs could help wounded Marines and Sailors.

"In this program we train young service members to be telemarketers and also call center operators," Esau said. "It's been a nice opportunity, especially for those who were severely hurt."

Greco said he was happy to hear the foundation has financial support for service members to pursue college degrees. The captain also said he's eager to hear from organizations that help the wounded.

"We're here to support them," Greco said about injured service members. "We help them navigate the civilian workforce and offer medical assistance for more extensive injuries."

Esau explained to Marines how veterans could train with Combat Call Center and work from their homes. In 2006, more than 200 veterans trained in the national program, including blind and deaf disabled veterans. The executive director estimates another 400 people will graduate this year, with starting pay ranging from \$21 to \$39 per hour.

"In some cases, people who have graduated went on to work with IBM and other big corporations," he said. "The program has grown by leaps and bounds."

The retired colonel said he took a special interest in meeting with Wounded Warriors Co. because he was part of the base staff in the 1980s. Esau spoke to combat correspondents in March 1983 about being the general's right hand man as chief of staff for 1st Marine Brigade Combat Landing Team, now 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. He later commanded 3rd Marines and left Hawaii in 1984 to work at Headquarters Marine Corps. Esau said he's glad to come back to take care of Marines in Hawaii.

"It's nice to see older veterans come by to reach out to the younger Marines," Greco said. "I think his visit was successful, and it's always good to build connections between veterans of different generations."

A Vietnam veteran, the executive director said people are always welcome to use the programs no



Colonel Mark A. Dungan, right, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, salutes during morning colors with retired Col. Richard Esau (fourth from left). Esau met with Dungan to discuss veteran's programs offered through the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation.



Corporal Ryan Irving, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, front, listens to retired Col. Richard Esau speak about his combat experiences at the Wounded Warriors lounge. He spoke to Marines about the foundation's programs, such as Combat Call Center, where veterans work as phone support operators.

matter how much time has passed since their service. After speaking with a foundation representative, Esau said his friend learned he qualified for additional Veterans Affairs benefits because of diabetes. The retired colonel said every veteran has the right to ensure their needs are met after their military service ends.

"A lot from the reserves are

demobilized," he said. "They're sent home, and it seems like people forget all about them. We ought not let that happen, so we have people who are there to reach out."

For more information about the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, log on to <http://www.purpleheartfoundation.org>, or call 1-800-274-9772.



Retired Col. Richard Esau, right, holds up a 3rd Marine Regiment T-shirt next to Capt. Jerome Greco, officer-in-charge, Wounded Warriors Company. The shirt is a memento of Esau's Sept. 21 visit with the Marines to speak about available benefits the wounded have as veterans. Esau has two Legion of Merit medals and two Purple Heart medals.

Karmah sheik confides in 3/3 Marines

**Story and Photo by
Pfc. Brian Jones**

Regimental Combat Team 6

KARMAH, Iraq — "Be optimistic and you will find the good things."

This is the notion of a prominent sheik here, working with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, to create a peaceful today and a thriving tomorrow for a city that's weighted down by conflict.

In July, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, RCT-6, completed their tour and relinquished control over the battle space in and around the city where they had fought to dispose of the enemy seeded in the area.

"We're falling in on the tail end of that so that we can bring the population to the next level and help get the economy moving again," said Capt. Quintin D. Jones, commanding officer, Company L, 3/3. "We are transitioning away from the kinetic fight and trying to help the local governance."

While his Marines continue counterinsurgency operations, Jones is trying to kick-start the city's economy again, hoping to tie it all back into larger levels of government.

"On one end I'm fighting, and on the other end I'm [settling disputes] between tribal leaders," said Jones, a Memphis, Tenn., native. "The other part [is] trying to stimulate the economy. So, it's a

three-block war here and it's very, very dynamic."

Local government is restored, the city council assembled, and Karmah has an experienced official as mayor. With these three building blocks in place, Jones hopes Karmah's municipal government can tie back into its largest neighbor, Fallujah. Fallujah will then in turn tie Karmah into Ramadi, the provincial capital, so that once Coalition Forces leave, the local government can remain stable.

"The economy will still be thriving because it is tied into the old system that was here," Jones said. "I think that we are essentially running a small corporation," Jones said, "because we are doing a lot of things at the same time."

Jones prompted meetings with many of the sheiks of the surrounding tribes, Sept. 22, visiting their homes, congregating with them, and sharing their food and hospitality. This brought many of the sheiks to the table with other city officials to discuss what they had to offer the city.

"There is a serious cooperation that has taken place among the tribes and the Marines," said Sheik Mishen of the Jumaila tribe, a dominant tribe in Karmah, through an interpreter. "What Capt. Jones did today was as example of our own way of dealing with things."

Iraq's political landscape, especially in the areas outside major cities such as Fallujah

and Ramadi, is dominated by tribes, their sheiks and internal loyalties. Bringing sheiks into the civil reconstruction picture is what spurred the "Anbar Awakening," said Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, Multi-National Force - Iraq. In that way, company commanders like Jones are doing their part to undertake the comprehensive plan put in place by Petraeus.

The relationship between the unit commander on the ground, whether he is Iraqi or a Coalition member, and the tribal authorities in his area is an essential part of making things work. It's something that has begun to pay dividends for Jones and his Marines.

Mishen agreed to Jones' wishes and was willing to overcome animosity toward the sheiks of lesser stature to help improve the security situation in the city.

"I will set differences aside to do the right thing," Mishen said. "No matter what happens, if anything advances the security of Karmah, I will cooperate."

Mishen said he strongly opposes the violence insurgents have brought upon his tribe.

Insurgent violence has touched him personally many times throughout the war, losing many of his cousins in attacks. Just weeks before, his daughter was killed in a mortar attack in the home in which Jones met him.

"So far security is very



A group of sheiks, including Sheik Mishen, head of the Jumaila tribe, confer at a meeting in Karmah, Iraq, Sept. 22. With them is Capt. Quintin D. Jones, commanding officer, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6. The meeting was part of tribal engagement efforts to ensure community security and boost economic growth.

good," Mishen said. "As far as Karmah is concerned, the Marines are doing an excellent job. With the cooperation between our people here, things are actually working for the best."

Mishen said he values the Marines as the glue holding things together and is hoping the Marines will stick around until all the bad guys are captured.

He also shared great concern for what he considers a failing judicial system.

"If things continue like this, things will probably backfire on the system," Mishen said. "I am optimistic, but there are some parts of Karmah that need to be cleaned up."

"We are going to rebuild the place, rebuild the hope and solve the problems of the poverty," Mishen said about plans for the city. "Once the area is 100 percent secure, or secure enough, a lot of kids want to return to school. Education is the key."

Mishen said he feels they need Jones to keep things going as well as they are. He equated the company commander's importance to local reconstruction to the importance of President George W. Bush and high-level military leaders in national reconstruction.

"I know that Jones will be leaving, but I hope that in the short time that he is here things will change a lot more than in the past because of his presence," Mishen said.

HONOR, from A-1

"He was an amazing person and a perfect Marine," Herman said. "He could be relied on for any mission, and he never asked for anything from anyone unless he had already done it. He would read anything that he could get his hands on."

Perez also had nothing but kind words for the young Marine, and said Turner was committed to the Corps.

"I first learned of Cpl. Turner during a room inspection last year," Perez said. "Normally, in barracks rooms, you will find poster of rock stars and girls, but his room was different. Everything about his room said he was a Marine. He had recruitment posters on his walls. He had Marine paraphernalia around his room. He had Marine Corps books on his desk. He loved his Corps, and he fought everyday to stay in."

Turner touched the lives of many people around him. "He was a loving boy," Yadloczky said. "He was by far, the closest thing I've ever had to a little brother. I just can't think of anything bad about him, and he was awesome at what he did."

Many Marines have fallen in the last few years, but Perez summed it up best when he talked about Turner's family.

"The strength of the Marine Corps is the Marine, and the strength of the Marine is the Marine Corps," Perez said. "Cpl. Turner showed the honor, patriotism and fidelity of his family. He will never be forgotten."

1/3, from A-1

e-mail them as much as I could. I was able to get in contact with them about once or twice a week. I'm just glad that I'm back with them."

His family shared mutual feelings about Reyna's deployment and return.

"When he was gone, I cleaned my house a lot," Reyna's wife said. "My house is spotless; I probably have the cleanest house. To help cope with him being gone we did a lot of activities. I just stayed busy with the kids."

The kids also missed their father while he was gone. "Our daughter had trouble with him being gone in the beginning, but we just kept busy with the different activities on base to help keep our minds of the fact he was gone," she said. "I'm just glad he's back."

The remainder of 1/3 is returning throughout October.

RETURN, from A-1

While the Marines were deployed, their families anxiously waited for their return.

"It's awesome having him back home because I missed him tons," Staff Sgt. Cortez's wife said, after a long embrace. "Before he left I had a lot of anxiety and nervousness because of the fact that he was going but now I'm relieved. I'm just happy he's home."

Though the Marines and Sailors are happy to be back home, some feel they should be back in Iraq.

"It's alright being back home but in a way I wish I was still there," said Cpl. Michael Cunningham, motor transportation, Bravo Battery, 1/12. "It's weird but that's how I feel."

The rest of the Marines and Sailors with 1/12 and HMH-362 return here later this month.



AROUND THE CORPS



Rosa Peralta, mother of Sgt. Rafael Peralta, and Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, cut a ceremonial ribbon during the 31st MEU's building dedication honoring Sgt. Rafael Peralta.

31st MEU dedicates building to 1/3 Marine killed in Iraq

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Kamran Sadaghiani

31st MEU

OKINAWA, Japan — The memory of Sgt. Rafael Peralta is alive and well today, even though he made the ultimate sacrifice after heroic actions in Iraq nearly three years ago. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit dedicated its headquarters in honor of Peralta, Sept. 22, on Camp Hansen here. Approximately 60 guests witnessed the MEU headquarters, Building 2533, commemorated as Peralta Hall. Peralta's immediate family and Lt. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, were among those in attendance. "The tears of angels that have joined us today underscore the importance of what we have done in this dedication," Zilmer said during his speech, as rain fell in the Okinawan afternoon. During the ceremony, Zilmer addressed the audi-

ence and highlighted Peralta's efforts and how his actions epitomized Marine Corps leadership. "Today we honor the life, service and act of bravery of a man who personified our core values," said Zilmer, a native of Reading, Penn. "We pay homage to his sacrifice by dedicating this building in his memory so that future generations of Marines and Sailors will learn of Sgt. Peralta's valor and just as importantly never forget his selfless deeds on the battlefield." Peralta died Nov. 15, 2004, during Operation Phantom Fury while attached to the 31st MEU. He led a team of Marines through a series of house-clearing operations to clear isolated pockets of resistance in Fallujah, Iraq. During the fierce battle, Peralta was wounded but his actions helped save the lives of his men. "Sergeant Peralta's honorable service to the nation and Corps, courageous actions in

the heat of battle, commitment to the Corps, his unit and Marines and Sailors is self evident to those here today who wear the cloth of our nation," Zilmer said. Peralta's mother, Rosa Peralta, his sister, Karen and brother, Ricardo, flew across the Pacific from San Diego to attend the ceremony. Rosa, along with Zilmer, unveiled a placard and cut the ribbon on the building's entrance, commemorating

her son's sacrifice. The family was thankful for the honor bestowed on his memory, and Mrs. Peralta said she was obliged for everything the 31st MEU did for the family to make them as comfortable as possible. During a reception, the Peralta family reminisced about their fallen hero. His mother said he lived life to the fullest and was proud of his military service. His brother, Ricardo, recol-

lected that Peralta had a fine job after graduating high school. As a member of the California Conservation Corps, Peralta built protective fire barriers. "He wanted something more," Ricardo recalled. "He wanted a challenge, so he joined the Marine Corps." Ricardo, a 17-year-old resident of San Diego, identifies his brother as his hero. In fact, he plans to follow Peralta's footsteps and enlist

in the Marine Corps after he graduates high school. "I am doing this for my brother," he modestly stated. "I am proud to be an American, but I am doing this for my brother to make him proud." As the 31st MEU continues to operate in the Asia-Pacific area, Sgt. Peralta's memory of leadership, bravery and professionalism is a tale to inspire this unit to continue its success, said Zilmer.



Peralta and Zilmer unveil a plaque in remembrance of her son at the dedication ceremony.

